



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 7  
901 NORTH 5TH STREET  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

FEB 19 2010

Ms. Peggy Casey, Environmental Projects Engineer  
FHWA Division Office  
3220 W Edgewood, Ste H  
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Mr. Kevin Keith, Chief Engineer  
Missouri Department of Transportation  
PO Box 270  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Ms. Casey and Mr. Keith:

RE: Review of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Rex Whitton  
Expressway Project in Cole County, MO

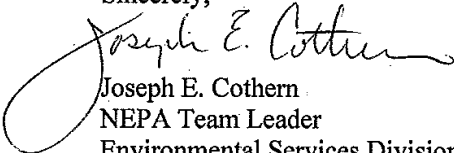
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this project. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act 42 U.S.C. 4231, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. The DEIS was assigned the CEQ number 20090452.

The DEIS outlines the environmental impacts of several alternatives considered to improve traffic safety and operations, provide sufficient roadway capacity, address road and bridge deficiencies, and to improve access to the redevelopment site near the former Missouri State Penitentiary. The DEIS does an exemplary job of conveying essential project information in a "reader-friendly" format.

Based on our overall review and the level of our comments, the EPA has rated the DEIS for this project Lack of Objections. EPA's only recommendation would be for the FHWA and MoDOT to consider presenting a project "critical path" chart and best-guess construction timeline in the Final EIS for the preferred alternative.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments regarding this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 913-551-7148 or via email at [cothern.joe@epa.gov](mailto:cothern.joe@epa.gov).

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Cothorn  
NEPA Team Leader  
Environmental Services Division